GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2068
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Production of Jute/Jute Products
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of jute/ jute products produced and imported/exported during each of the last three years and the current year, product/countrywise;

(b) the details of schemes being implemented by the Government to increase the production and export of jute in the country and the steps taken by the Government to resolve the problems of jute producers;

(c) the details of jute mills modernised by the Government during the said period, mill and State-wise;

(d) whether plastic is proposed to be used for packaging of food items in place of jute due to jute crisis and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received any representations from some jute mill owners requesting the Government intervention in the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon and the other steps taken by the Government to address the problem arisen due to the shortage of jute?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a): The details of the total quantity and value of jute/ jute products produced and imported/exported during each of the last three years and the current year is enclosed at Annexure-I. The country-wise export of jute goods to top 20 importing countries during the last three years is given at Annexure-II.

(b): The following initiatives/policies/schemes are being implemented by the Government to increase the production/export of jute and to promote the jute sector:-

(i) The Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act) has been enacted in the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material, and of persons engaged in the production thereof. Accordingly, as per the Schedule of Notification No.S.O. 527 (E) dated 13-02-2015 issued under the JPM Act, stipulates the minimum percentages of total production of commodity or class of commodities that are required to be packed in jute packaging material manufactured in India and raw jute produced in India.
(ii) A pilot project Jute-ICARE (Jute Improved Cultivation and Advanced Retting Exercise) has been launched in selected Blocks of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh where jute cultivation is popular to improve income of farmers through both increase in yield and improvement in quality of fibres. The project is being implemented by NJB in association with Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI) and Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres, (CRIJAF), Ministry of Agriculture.
(iii) A Jute Design Cell for development of Jute Shopping Bags and Lifestyle Accessories has been set up at the Innovative Centre for Natural Fibres (ICNF) of National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad.
(iv) A scheme for setting up of Common Facility Centres (CFCs) has been launched in 5 WSHG clusters; 3 in West Bengal and 1 each in Assam and Bihar for providing support to Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) on training, infrastructure/ machinery and marketing to artisans in development of Jute Diversified Products.
(v) Under Export Market Development Assistance Scheme of National Jute Board (NJB) support is provided to manufacturers-exporters for participation in fairs, exhibitions, Buyer-Sellers-Meet (BSM), etc
(vi) For facilitating modernization in existing and new jute mills, upgrading technology in existing jute mills, assistance is provided under Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Select Machinery by NJB.
(vii) Assistance is provided to jute mills for establishing sanitation facilities under Workers' Welfare Scheme to provide hygienic sanitation facilities for mill workers.
(viii) A scholarship scheme for educational support is implemented by NJB, to motivate the family for acquiring higher education by their children.
(ix) For Promotion of use of Jute Geo-textiles (JGT) in Civil Engineering applications like slope stabilization management, rural roads construction, river bank protection, etc. support is provided under the Scheme for Geotextiles in North Eastern Region.

(c): Under the Incentive Scheme for Acquisition of Plant & Machinery (IASPM) which is implemented through the National Jute Board, during 2013-2015 a total incentive of Rs.6.15 crores has been disbursed for modernisation. The mill-wise, State-wise list is at Annexure-III.

(d): The norms stipulated under the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987 provide for packaging of 90% of the production of foodgrains and 20% of the production of sugar in jute material. For the remaining percentage of production, other material including plastic could be used for packaging.

(e) & (f): Some representations including those received from Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) have been received regarding the surge in price of jute. After discussing the matter with the stakeholders including the Government of West Bengal, the following steps have been taken:
(i) Jute Commissioner has issued notifications for fixing ceiling limits for stocking of raw jute immediately for the millers (to two months' requirement) and traders (1700 quintals) as suggested by Government of West Bengal.
(ii) The Enforcement Directorate of Government of West Bengal has been authorized and advised to enforce the stock limits to ensure availability of raw jute.
(iii) Government of West Bengal and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare have been advised to take necessary steps to improve the production of raw jute.
(iv) Ministry of Commerce has been requested to take steps to persuade Republic of Bangladesh to lift the ban on the export of raw jute and facilitate free trade of raw jute to improve the availability of raw jute.